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Bills strengthening the right of self-defense pass state Senate

LANSING—Legislation that strengthens the common law on self-defense and allows people to defend themselves in life-or-death situations has passed the state Senate, said Sen. Valde Garcia, R-Howell.

The six-bill package would allow a person to defend himself with no obligation to flee if faced with imminent violent danger and would grant civil protection to a person who exercises appropriate self-defense.

“The Legislature’s priority should always be public safety,” said Garcia. “What better way to uphold public safety than by fortifying people’s right to defend themselves and their property.”

Sen. Alan Cropsey, an author of one of the bills in the package, was inspired to draft the legislation because of an incident in which a woman defended her husband from a violent attack and ended up being sued by the attacker.

“For a violent attacker to be able to turn his victim into the criminal in court shows the pressing need for this legislation,” said Garcia. “We must protect victims from further cruelty.”

Five other states have passed similar laws—Alabama, Florida, Indiana, Mississippi, and South Dakota.

Senate Bills 1046 and 1185 and House Bills 5142, 5143, 5153 and 5548 now go to the House for further consideration.

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